

Tree/Shrub Establishment (Acre) 612

DEFINITION

To establish woody plants by planting or seeding.

PURPOSES

- * Establish woody plants for forest products.
- * Provide erosion control for landscaping and energy conservation.
- * Reduce air pollution for uptake of soil and water borne chemicals and nutrients.
- * Beautify an area.
- * Protect and improve watersheds and ecosystems within them.
- * Provide wildlife food and habitat.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On any areas where woody plants are suited.

CRITERIA

Species will be adapted to soil-site conditions.

Species will be suitable for the planned purpose.

Planting or seeding rates will be adequate to accomplish the planned purpose.

Planting dates and care in handling and planting of the seed or seedlings will ensure that planted materials have an acceptable rate of survival.

Only viable, high quality, and adapted planting stock or seed will be used.

Site preparation shall be sufficient for establishment and growth of selected species.

Adequate seed or advanced reproduction needs to be present or provided for when using natural regeneration to establish a stand.

Timing and use of equipment will be appropriate for the site and soil conditions.

The acceptability and timing of coppice regeneration shall be based on species, age, and diameter.

The planting will be protected from adverse impacts such as livestock damage or fire.

CONSIDERATIONS

When underplanting, trees should be planted sufficiently in advance of overstory removal to ensure full establishment.

Prescribed burning may be required for natural regeneration of serotinous cone species and for site preparation for other species.

All planting stock and seed should be purchased from nurseries that are known to be using locally adapted seed, seedlings, or cuttings. Priority will be given to native plant materials that have been selected and tested in tree improvement programs. All plant materials should comply with and meet the American Standards for Nursery Stock established by the American Nursery and Landscape Association, located at 1250 I Street N.W., Suite 500, Washington, DC. 20005.

Plans for landscape and beautification plantings should consider foliage color, color and season of flowering, and mature plant height.

Where multiple species are available to accomplish the establishment objective, consideration should be given to selecting the native species which best meets wildlife needs.

Tree arrangement and spacing should allow for access depending on purpose. (See Michigan NRCS Standards for: Access Road-560, Recreation Trail and Walkway-568, and Firebreak-394.)

Residual chemical carryover should be considered prior to planting.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, narrative statements in

the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

Adapted tree species for the purposes outlined, spacing, planting methods, cultural practices, and maintenance requirements will be documented in the specifications. Variations in planting methods and species selection when interplanting, underplanting, and planting in open areas will be documented. Separate specifications may be prepared for each of these planting methods.

Note: Michigan NRCS Interim Specifications for Tree and Shrub Establishment are contained in MSU-E Bulletin E-771, dated 6/97 and Michigan NRCS Conservation Design Sheet 612, dated 7/97.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Competing vegetation will be controlled until the woody plants are established.

Replanting will be required when survival is inadequate.

Trees and shrubs will be protected from fire, insects, disease, and animals until established.

Supplemental watering may be desirable to ensure adequate survival.

Damaging pests will be monitored and controlled.

Periodic applications of nutrients may be needed to maintain plant vigor.